

Harman.5754

REMARKS

Claims 3-7, 16, 20 and 23 have been cancelled. Claims 2 and 8 have been amended. Claims 24-31 have been added. Claims 2, 8-9, 11-15, 17-18 and 21-22 and 24-31 remain for further consideration. No new matter has been added.

No additional fees are required since the total number of pending claims is twenty, three of which (2, 8 and 24) are independent claims.

The objection and rejections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.

1. The drawings currently stand objected to for allegedly not showing all the features set forth in the claims.

It is alleged that the drawings fail to illustrate "*said front and rear cover panels each have a surface that comprises criss-cross veneer.*" (cl. 7). However, FIGs. 1-3 each illustrate the front and rear cover panels 3 and 4, respectively. The Official Action states that this objection to the drawings has been maintained since "...*the applicant has not provided a means by which to obtain his specific criss-cross pattern for this panel.*" (Official Action, pg. 7). The claimed invention is not directed to a mechanism or method for obtaining a specific criss-cross pattern on the panel, but rather the claim recites the front and rear cover panels each have surfaces that comprise criss-cross veneer. As set forth above, FIGs. 1-3 each illustrate the cover panels. Again, the claim is not directed to a method or apparatus for obtaining a criss-cross pattern.

Claim 3 has been cancelled.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

2. Claims 2, 4-7, 9, 11-15 and 17-18 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of

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the combined subject matter disclosed in: (i) U.S. Patent 6,337,695 to Azima (hereinafter "Azima '695"); (ii) U.S. Patent 6,332,029 to Azima (hereinafter "Azima '029") and (iii) U.S. Patent 4,862,011 to Wright (hereinafter "Wright").

Claim 2 has been amended to include the features of claim 16, which the Official Action states contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 9, 11-15 and 17-18 is now moot, since claim 2 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 4-7 have been cancelled.

3. Claims 8 and 21-23 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of the combined subject matter disclosed in: (i) Azima '695; (ii) Azima '029 and (iii) U.S. Patent 6,226,927 to Bertolini (hereinafter "Bertolini").

Claim 8 has been amended to include the features of claim 20, which the Official Action states contains allowable subject matter.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 21-22 is now moot since these claims depend from claim 8. The Official Action indicates claim 20 would be allowable if rewritten into independent claim format, and accordingly claim 8 has been amended to include the features of claim 20. Claim 23 has been cancelled.

5. The indication that claims 3, 16 and 20 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten into independent claim format is noted and appreciated.

Claim 2 has been amended to include the features of claim 16 to secure its allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 9, 11-15 and 17-18 are in condition for allowance.

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Claim 3 has been cancelled.

Claim 8 has been amended to include the features of claim 20 to secure its allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 21-23 are in condition for allowance since they depend from claim 8.

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 2, 8-9, 11-15, 17-18, 21-23 and 24-31 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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